

AMBLECOTE  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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**Annual Report**

OF THE

**Medical Officer of Health,**

FOR THE

**YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1909.**

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— 1910 —

WAMBLECOTE

# URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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MEMBERS.

CHAIRMAN - - Councillor GEORGE DAVIS  
VICE-CHAIRMAN - Councillor GEO. PERCY PITT.

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Councillor GEO. H. ASTON	Councillor GEORGE F. JAMES
„ C. E. EDWARDS	„ JAMES PIPER
„ A. H. GUEST	„ JAMES ROUND

Councillor FRANK WILLIAMS.

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Medical Officer of Health:

H. D'ARCY ELLIS.

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Clerk:

ROWLAND MOORE.

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Surveyor:

JEREMIAH SKIDMORE.

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Sanitary Inspector:

HAROLD PIPER.

# AMBLECOTE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

For the Year ending December 31st, 1909.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Amblecote  
Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

The Vital Statistics will again be calculated upon an estimated population of 3,329.

Eighty-three persons were born in the district during the year, of whom 49 were males, and 34 females.

The birth-rate for the year is therefore 24·9 per 1000 of the population, as against a birth-rate of 24·6 for the year 1908.

The average birth-rate for the past ten years is 26·0.

Sixty-six deaths were registered as having occurred within the district during the year. One death has to be added of persons belonging to the district, who died outside, and twenty-two deaths have to be deducted, which occurred at the Corbett Hospital within the district amongst persons not belonging thereto.

The number of persons who died belonging to the district is therefore forty-five, of whom 26 were males, and 19 females.

The corrected death-rate for the year 1909 is 13·5 per 1000 of the population—that of the year 1908 being 16·2.

The mean average death-rate for the previous ten years is 15·2 per 1,000 of the population.

The Zymotic death-rate is 0·6 per 1,000 of the population, for the year 1908 it was 2·4.

The mean average for the previous ten years is 0·8.

The Infantile Mortality is 103 per 1000 registered births. For the year 1908 it was 146.

The mean average of the previous ten years is 133.

These are the principal statistics, which bear upon the Sanitary condition of the district, and I think they are eminently satisfactory, with the exception of the birth-rate which is very low, as in fact it appears to be all over the country. We are however very considerably below the rest of the County, as the following table will show.

Synopsis of Birth and Death-rates in Amblecote District, County of Stafford and England and Wales:—

1909	Average Rates per 1,000 living.			Infantile Mortality.
	Birth-rate.	Death-rate.	Deaths from Seven principal Zymotic Diseases.	
Amblecote (corrected) ..	24·9	13·5	0·60	108
England and Wales ..	25·6	14·5	1·12	109
76 Great Towns ..	25·7	15·6	1·42	118
142 Smaller Towns ..	24·8	14·5	1·08	111
England and Wales—less 218 Towns ..	25·6	13·6	0·80	98
1908 { County of Stafford ..				
{ Urban ..	31·4	15·0	1·49	139
{ Rural ..	26·7	13·1	0·71	98
Amblecote ..	24·6	16·2	2·4	146

## Notifications of Infectious Disease.

**Scarlet Fever**—27 cases, 1 death. Houses affected, 20.

The only other disease notified was a case of Croup.

The notifications from Scarlet Fever have been going on for the past three years. It began in May 1907, when a case was reported at a cottage, which stands by itself in a field at Stamter Mill. This case did not however introduce the disease into the more populous parts and amongst the children attending School. In July 1907 a case was notified at King William Street which when discovered was in the condition known as desquamating or peeling, and within the next month three other cases were discovered, which were in the same condition; with one exception, all of these were removed to Hospital. In 1908 cases were notified in every month throughout the year, with the exception of February and August. The last case was notified on December 28th. No other case was notified until April 1909. This was promptly sent to the Hospital. Four other cases were notified in April, one of whom died before the notification was received. Three cases in May. In

June nine cases occurred amongst children attending at the Infant Schools. I advised closure of the Schools and this was carried out. This seemed to be effectual for a time, as no other case was notified until the end of August. This case was at the extreme end of the district and attended school in another district, so that there was no connection between this and the previous cases. The next case was notified on November 6th at White Court, and this was removed to the Hospital. Another on November 7th, also removed to the Hospital. One on November 29th, isolated at home, there being no other children in the house, and the parents objecting to removal. One December 14 that White Court removed to the hospital. Another at the extreme end of the district, a child attending school outside the district, notified on December 16th.

The chief source of infection came through the Infant school, and it may be that the susceptible children are now considerably eliminated and we may look forward to a period of immunity.

Amongst the usual precautions taken, such as general disinfection and fumigation, the particulars of which will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report, I advised that the schools should be thoroughly cleansed and fumigated, and this was agreed to and carried out. I think this proceeding had a beneficial effect, as no cases have occurred since, which could be traced to the schools in your district.

**Measles.**—On December 13th my attention was called to an outbreak of measles amongst the children in attendance at the Infant Schools. On visiting these schools on December 18th I found 40 absent out of a possible 150 on the registers. Three children were in attendance who were sickening. On December 21st in my report I directed your attention to these facts, and it was decided to close the schools for one month. Notice was sent to the local Government Board and County Council. It is satisfactory to note that only one death occurred, and the outbreak rapidly subsided. As I have before stated in previous annual reports, there are two important factors which favour an epidemic of this disease, the first and most important being the aggregation in our schools of children under five years of age, when they are most susceptible, and the persistence of the mothers in regarding the disease as of slight importance, and thus not taking proper care to keep them isolated.

With regard to Measles and school attendance and to prevent its spread as much as possible, a joint memorandum was issued last September by the Medical Officers of the Local Government Board and the Board of Education, as to the mode of procedure when an outbreak occurs, and in future we must take proceedings in accordance with the terms of this memorandum.

After dealing with its mode of transmission, the age at which it is most likely to occur, it gives certain directions as to its prevention, which come more immediately within the province of the Sanitary Authority as follows :—

## I. For infant schools :

- (a) When a few cases only are present :—Exclude the patients and infants living with them.
- (b) When more cases :—Close the affected class or school from the 9th to the 14th day.
- (c) When it is clear that the chief medium of spread is the school attendance, close the school.

## II. For boys' and girls' schools :

Exclude all who are attacked, but only those from affected homes who have not had measles.

They further advise that on the grounds of efficiency it may be necessary to close a class or school when the attendance has fallen to a certain minimum, but that the procedure should emanate from the School Authority, on the advice of the School Medical Officer, and not from the Sanitary Authority, on the advice of the Medical Officer of Health.

In this outbreak I considered the minimum had been reached so rapidly that it was useless proceeding as directed in (a) and (c), and as the memorandum had been so recently issued, I did not apply to the School Medical Officer, but in future this course must be adopted.

My experience with outbreaks of measles has always been that it has gone beyond the stages when the precautions suggested by (a) and (c) could be of any practical value. It will be either necessary to add measles to the list of notifiable diseases, or for the Education Authority to give instructions to the teachers to notify the first case that comes under their notice to the Medical Officer of Health.

During the period of closure the schools were again fumigated and sprayed with a disinfectant.

**Housing of the Working Classes Act.**—I have nothing to add to my previous remarks upon this point, viz., that the houses occupied by the working-classes are generally good. Many improvements have been successfully carried out where necessary, and these have been chiefly in the old properties which I have mentioned in previous reports.

On referring to the Sanitary Inspector's Report it will be seen that a great advance has been made in getting the old privies converted into water closets, 82 having been converted during the year, entailing the great advantage also of getting the drainage to these properties into a good working sanitary condition. There now remain only 20 to be cleared off, so that the whole district may now be said to be obtaining the full advantage of the drainage system where that is available.

Part i.—No action has been necessary.

Part ii.—Two houses were reported as unfit for habitation, owing to neglect of internal repairs and want of cleanliness. No prosecution has been necessary.

Part iii.—There are no lodging houses in the district.

**Water Supply.**—The district is supplied by the Stourbridge Water Company. There is no liability to plumbago solvent action. The



water from one well was analysed and found to be polluted. The company's water was laid on and the well closed.

**Milk Supply.**—The Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order is in force. There are six cowsheds in the district, one had notice and has put into a good sanitary condition. *Vide* Inspector's report.

No analysis has been made to ascertain if the milk is tuberculous. I have made three inspections to farms outside the district with a view to ascertaining some idea of the condition of the cattle. In one case the farmer stated he had some of his cattle tested.

**Other Foods.**—No action has been necessary under Section 117 of the Public Health Act 1875. There is only one slaughter house and that is well conducted. No case of Tuberculosis has been found.

**Sewerage Disposal.**—In my last annual report I mentioned one locality at Holloway End as being unprovided for, owing to certain supposed engineering difficulties. The Council have had a thorough investigation into this question during the year, and it now seems probable that the difficulty can be overcome, and the work will be proceeded with.

At Audnam it was found there was considerable pollution of the canal, chiefly from drainage which found its way there from the adjoining district of Kingswinford, where sewerage works were nearing completion. During the year most of this source of nuisance has been diverted, and there is very little pollution at that point now.

**Excrement Disposal and House Refuge**—The system is by contract. The Sanitary Inspector reports that there is nothing to complain of in the way the work is carried out.

**Nuisances.**—The district is regularly inspected. There are very few complaints of nuisances which come directly under my notice, the Inspector being generally able to deal with them. They are regularly reported every month. No prosecutions have been necessary.

**Bye-laws.**—The Model Bye-laws are in force in the district.

**Tuberculosis.**—Notification only in case of paupers. No notification has been received. Fumigation and disinfection of sick room after death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis. No hospital accommodation for these cases in the district.

**Factories and Workshops.**—There are 25 Factories and 28 workshops in the district. Three notices have been necessary to remove Sanitary defects.

One case of lead poisoning has been notified, a man employed in glass polishing. The Factory was visited, found to be clean, well ventilated and the requirements of the Act fulfilled.

**H. D'ARCY ELLIS,**

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

*April 19th, 1910.*

## SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT for 1909.

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**Dairies and Cowsheds.**—The cowsheds in this district, of which there are 6, have been fairly well kept during the past year. Very necessary alterations have been made in one instance. It does not, however, appear to me to be general among cow-keepers to pay any particular attention to the grooming of the cows while they are in the sheds practically the whole time between October and April. The animals would be much cleaner if well brushed down only once a day.

**Slaughter Houses.**—One of the two slaughter houses has become disused during the year leaving this district with one only. This has been frequently inspected, and I have very little to complain of in the way in which it has been kept.

**Ashpits and Privies.**—Under this heading may also be included house drainage. During the past year 82 of the old privy middens have been wiped out and water closets substituted for them. Fifteen ashpits have been done away with and proper sanitary bins provided to take their place. The conversion of the old privy generally meant the alteration or entire relaying of the house drains, and this has been the means of bringing them up to date and getting old and insanitary traps replaced by proper modern ones. The remaining privies where there is sewer accommodation (exclusive of factories and workshops) do not now exceed 20 in number and notices have been served in respect of some of them, and they are at present in hand. The general sanitary condition of the district should be materially improved by these conversions.

**Infectious Diseases.**—As preventive against infectious disease I have made 134 visits to houses where such existed, and 24 houses and 4 schools have been disinfected during the year.

**Refuse Removal.**—My comment on this work for 1908 was that it had been performed in a manner most creditable to the Council and the Contractor. If possible it has been done even better during the past year.

**HAROLD PIPER,**

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

*24th February, 1910.*



**TABLE I.**  
**Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1909 and previous Years.**  
**Local Government Board. URBAN DISTRICT OF AMBLECOTE.**

YEAR.	Popula- tion estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				Deaths of Non- Residents registered in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT		
		Num- ber.	Rate.*	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.						
				Num- ber.	Rate per 1000 Births Regis- tered.	Num- ber.	Rate *					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Number.	Rate.*
1899	3,075	82	26.6	15	182	70	22.7	15	15	3	58	18.8
1900	3,100	70	22.5	12	171	64	22.6	19	19	2	46	14.8
1901	3,128	98	31.3	14	143	70	21.7	18	16	4	58	18.5
1902	3,158	87	27.5	13	149	69	22.4	39	28	2	43	13.6
1903	3,236	82	25.3	11	134	60	18.5	26	26	3	37	11.4
1904	3,282	83	25.2	11	131	54	16.7	22	22	1	55	16.7
1905	3,313	84	25.3	5	59	57	17.2	26	24	4	37	11.1
1906	3,329	87	26.1	11	126	74	22.2	19	18	2	56	16.8
1907	3,329	88	26.4	12	136	65	19.5	20	20	3	48	14.4
1908	3,329	82	24.6	12	146	73	21.9	23	23	4	54	16.2
Averages for years 1899-1908	3,227	84	26.0	11	133	65	20.5	21	21	2	49	15.2
1909	3,329	83	24.9	9	108	66	19.8	22	22	1	45	13.5

Total population at all ages			3,128	} At Census of 1901.
Number of inhabited houses			656	
Average number of persons per house			4.7	

Rates in Columns 4, 8 and 13 calculated per 1,000 of the estimated population. Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 665.

\*Rates in Columns 4, 8 and 13 calculated per 1,000 of the estimated population. Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 665.

Total population at all ages ... 3,128 }  
 Number of inhabited houses ... 656 }  
 Average number of persons per house 4.7 }  
 At Census of 1901.

TABLE III.

Local Government Board. Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1909.  
URBAN DISTRICT OF AMBLECOTE.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							No. of Cases removed to Hospital from each Locality.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 & up wards	
Diphtheria(including Mem- branous croup) ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	27	4	13	9	1	...	...	5
Totals ...	28	4	14	9	1	...	...	5

Isolation Hospital, Kingswinford. Total available beds, 15.  
Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 2.

## TABLE IV.

## Local Government Board.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1909.

## URBAN DISTRICT OF AMBLECOTE.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents," whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Total Deaths, whether of Residents or Non-residents in Public Institutions in the District.
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards	
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	16
Measles .. .. .	1	...	1	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever ... ..	1	...	1	...	...	...	..	..
Croup ... ..	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	..
Enteritis ... ..	1	...	1	...	..	..	...	..
Erysipelas ... ..	1	...	...	...	..	1	...	..
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	2	...	1	...	...	...	1	..
Other Tubercular Diseases...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cancer, Malignant Disease...	3	...	...	..	..	1	2	2
Bronchitis ... ..	6	1	1	...	...	2	2	..
Pneumonia ... ..	3	2	1	...	...	...	..	1
Alcoholism—Cirrhosis of Liver ...	1	..	...	...	...	1	..	..
Premature Birth ... ..	2	2	..	...	...	...	...	..
Heart Diseases... ..	3	..	...	...	...	3	...	..
Accidents ... ..	2	...	..	...	1	1	...	6
All other Causes ... ..	15	2	1	1	...	6	5	10
All Causes ... ..	44	9	7	2	1	15	10	22

**TABLE V.****Local Government Board.****Infantile Mortality during the Year 1909.****URBAN DISTRICT OF AMBLECOTE.****Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.**

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	1-2 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
All Causes - Certified ...	2	1	3	1	1	1	2	1	9
Wasting Diseases—									
Premature Birth ...	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	2
Congenital Defects ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculous Diseases --									
Tuberculous Peritonitis ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	2
Other Causes—									
Convulsions ...	...	...	...	1	..	..	...	...	1
Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	...	..	...	1	...	1
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2
	2	1	3	1	1	1	2	1	9

District of Amblecote. Population (estimated to middle of 1909), 3,329.

Births in the year—legitimate, 83; illegitimate, none.

Deaths in the year of legitimate infants, 9; illegitimate infant, none.

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 44.

## URBAN DISTRICT OF AMBLECOTE.

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**FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES AND  
HOMEWORK.**


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**1.—Inspection.**

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.					Number of	
					Inspections.	Written Notices.
FACTORIES .	...	...	..	..	12	2
WORKSHOPS	...	...	...	...	32	1
WORKPLACES	...	...	...	...	1	...
Total	..	...	..	..	45	3

**2.—Defects Found.**

Particulars.					Number of defects.	
					Found	Remedied.
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>						
Sanitary accommodation	{ insufficient ... ..				...	...
	{ unsuitable or defective ..				3	3
	{ not separate for sexes ...				...	...
Total	...	...	...	...	3	3

## 3.—Home Work.

Nature of Work.	Outworkers' Lists, Section 107.	Inspections of Outworkers' Premises.	Outwork in Unwholesome Premises, Section 108.	
	Addresses of Outworkers.		Instances.	Notices served.
	Received from other Councils.			
Wearing Apparel— Making, &c. ...	2	6	1	1

## 4.—Registered Workshops.

Workshops on the Register at the end of the year.	Number.
Wheelwright Carpenter and Blacksmiths ...	4
Cratemaking Shops ... ..	3
Boot Repairing ... ..	3
Dressmaking ... ..	3
Retail Bakehouses ... ..	3
Glass Decorating ... ..	2
Glass Packing, &c. ... ..	3
Miscellaneous ... ..	4
Total number of Workshops on Register ...	25

*Signed,*

H. D'ARCY ELLIS,

*Medical Officer of Health.**April 19th, 1910.*



## STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

## SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK

*Done in the Nuisance Inspector's Department during the year 1900,  
in the Urban District of Amblecote.*

		Number of		Abate- ment Notices.		Nuisances abated after Notice by	
		In- spec- tions and Ob- serva- tions made	Defects found.	In- formal by Inspector.	Formal by Authority	Inspector	Authority.
Dwelling- houses and Schools	Foul Conditions ...	77	33	12	4	23	4
	Structural Defects ...		1		1		1
	Overcrowding ...		1	1		1	
	Unfit for Habitation ...						
	Lodging-houses ...						
	Dairies and Milkshops ...	4					
	Cowsheds ...	20	3	3		3	
	Bakehouses ..	12					
	Slaughter-houses ...	38	2	2		2	
	Canal Boats ...						
House Drainage	Ashpits and Privies ...	145	108	25	42	25	60
	Deposits of Refuse and Manure...	1	1	1		1	
	Water Closets ...	137	8	6	1	7	
	Defective Traps ...	264	42	13	28	13	25
	No Disconnection ...		12	4	2	4	4
	Other Faults ...		6	6		6	
	Water Supply ...	18	5	4	1	4	
	Pigstyes ..	9	1	1		1	
	Animals improperly kept ...						
	Offensive Trades ...						
	Smoke Nuisances ...	4	1	1		1	
	Other Nuisances ...	90	49	16	14	22	16
	Totals ...	819	273	95	93	113	110

Samples of Water taken for Analysis ...	...	...	1
" " condemned as unfit for use (Four Wells closed)	...	...	1

*Precautions against Infectious Disease.*

Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease	...	...	24
Scho's ditto ditto	...	...	4

Signed,

HAROLD PIPER,

Inspector of Nuisances.

February 24th, 1910.

